Indigenous/Police Relations

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November 5, 2019
Third Age Learning
Anishinaabe Seven Grandfathers

Ethical Space
Come - Ambé

Seven Sacred Teachings
Seven Grandmothers
I don't know what I don't know
What I know I don't know
What I know I know

Theory of Knowledge

96%

2%

2%
I would describe my relationship with Indigenous peoples of Canada as:
(400 students)

- I am open to learning; supportive; I want to learn more; willing to learn;
- distant; I don’t have much of a relationship other than attending pow wows and listening to speakers as a child or adult; limited; minimal; non-direct
- Composed of friendships; an ally; good? (few responses)
This map is kindly provided by
The Weejeendimin Native Resources Centre
99.8%
Doctrine of Discovery

1436 – Romanus Pontifex
1452 – Dum Diversas
1454 – Romanus Pontifex
1494 – Inter Caetera
1823 – U.S. Supreme Court – Johnson v. McIntosh
If we take away the Doctrine of Discovery in law, there is no real legitimate basis to Settler ownership of the land
How have Indigenous and Settler Peoples and Police Come to Know, but NOT Know, Each Other?
How Settler peoples have come to know Indigenous peoples (absence of men)
How Settler peoples have come to know Indigenous peoples (absence of women)

Indian Princess

Indian Squaw

Sexualized, desired by white women and men

Prostitute

How have Indigenous Peoples and Police come to know each other?
Whiteness Ideology: Enabling Colonial, Sociological, and Political Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls

North – Physical Manifestation of White Ideology
- Control, Conquest, Dispossession, Possession, Exploitation, Dependency, Oppression
- Discrimination
- Colonial, Sociological, Political Violence
- Objectification and Dehumanization against Indigenous Women
- Over-Incarceration, Over-Policing
- Under-Protection by police
- Sexual Violence, Murders
- Settler Ignorance, Denial, Defense

South – Emotions/Relations
- Colonized Indigenous/Settler relationships based on:
  - Gender Hierarchies, Power Hierarchies
  - Domination
  - Superiority, Subordination
  - Capitalism

West – Mental (Learned Norms)
- Colonial Society
- Settler Normativity
- Universalism
- Stereotypes

East – Spirit (Intent)
- Colonialism
- Doctrine of Discovery
- Racism
- Patriarchy

Whiteness Ideology

Whiteness Ideology: Enabling Colonial, Sociological, and Political Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls
Indigenous women and girls are 12 times more likely to be murdered or missing than any other women in Canada and 16 times more likely than white women.
Inquiries pertaining to police violence and failure to respond

1999 – Manitoba Aboriginal Justice Inquiry
2004 - Wright Inquiry
2011 - Davies Commission Inquiry
2016 - Val d’Or Inquiry
2018 - Unresolved determination of deaths of Indigenous youth, Thunder Bay
2019 – Missing and Murdered Indigenous women and girls inquiry
Susan stated that she learned early on to not call the police because they could take her kids away.

Not believed as a little girl impacted Patricia’s ability to trust in the police as an adult.

Because of lack of intervention and safety, Donna said that the police are the enemy.

A girl, Debbie, stated that because she saw that her family received help from the police, even though there were also bad experiences with police, she was able to see that there are good and bad police. She also stated that there should not be bad police because of the authority they hold.

When Donna, who saw the police as the enemy felt listened to and supported by a man of the police chorus, she contemplated another perception (that some police could be supportive).

Cindy stated that the partnership is helping to build trust in police

Paula shared her gratitude that the men really care about the women and girls.

Not believed as a little girl impacted Patricia’s ability to trust in the police as an adult.

Absent from the stories of the men of the police chorus is reference to concerns about trust and mistrust in the partnership.

Figure 9.4: Mistrust and Trust
What does it mean to have confidence in the police? Liqun Cao (2014)

- That one is willing to report crime (believing that police will be responsive)
- That one is willing to share information with police about criminal activity (believing that this information will be regarded fairly).
- That one is willing to comply with the law (believing that the laws exist to help the people).
You’ll Never Walk Alone


